Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks against departmental posts is direct recruitment and not a promotion.

Expansion of GSM Service in Tamil Nadu

3740. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of more communication towers for Global Short Messaging (GSM) services that will be established in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the area expected to be covered this year for expanding the GSM service in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to install about 1466 additional Base Stations for strengthening its existing mobile network of Tamil Nadu State including Chennai for providing mobile services up to block headquarter level subject to business and commercial viability.

Setting up of Quality Service Fund

3741. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the universal postal union of the U.N. has set up mail "Quality Services Fund" in the country for improving the quality of services in mail operations;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the States that have been covered under Quality Services Fund;

(d) how many projects have so far been implemented under their scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the details of States where the projects have so far been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to(e) The Universal Postal Union (UPU), a specialized agency of the United Nations with a membership of 190 countries decided to set up a fund called the Quality of Service Fund at the 22nd UPU Congress held in 1999 at Beijing. The objective of the Fund was to bring about improvement in the quality of letter mail processing and delivery in developing postal

administrations. It was decided that this Fund would be maintained through a 7.5% increase accepted by Industrialised Countries (ICs) on the payments made to postal administrations of Developing Countries (DCs) for handling and delivery charges of total-mail sent by ICs to DCs. The fund is administered by a nine member Board of Trustees (BOT), of the member administrations of the Universal Postal Union. The BOT approves funds to be given to creditor administrations (DCs) of the QSF on the basis of project proposal submitted by the administrations for improvement in the quality of service. These projects needs to be linked to one of the following six areas:—

access to services,
speed and reliability,
security,
liability and handling of inquiries,
customer satisfaction or design
implementation of cost accounting system.

India, being one of the developing countries, is a beneficiary of the QSF. One project has been implemented so far. Under this project, the 4 Airmail Offices of Exchange at Delhi (Delhi), Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) have been computerized.

Providing of Telephone Connections in Gautam Budh Nagar

†3742. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for making declaration of slashing or hiking fixed monthly rent rate by General Managers throughout the country and giving explanations for its implementation;

(b) the reasons for making declaration by the General Manager, Gautam Budh Nagar Telephone Exchange on 29-01-03 for charging monthly rent of Rs. 110/- and recovery of last two months alongwith reasons for hiking the same without any prior notice;

(c) the details of the principle basis for rural and urban evaluation and classification throughout India; and

(d) the reasons for not providing connections within scheduled time limit in Delta Exchange under Gautam Budh Nagar?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.